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REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Coppins for her willingness to discuss this application with Applicants' representative.

Following entry of the present amendment, Claims 1-12, 14, 17-22, 27, and 29 remain in the application for consideration. Claim 13 is herein cancelled without prejudice. Claims 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 28 were cancelled without prejudice in previous replies.

In the present Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 17, 19, 22, 27, and 29 stand rejected. Claims 3, 4 stand objected to.

Restriction/Election

The Examiner indicated that the application contains subject matter drawn to non-elected inventions based on the Restriction Requirement mailed November 8, 2002 and Applicants' reply filed February 4, 2003. Specifically, it was indicated that subject matter relating to acylsulphonamides and heteroaromatic moieties, which were not elected, remain in the claims and must be deleted.

In response, Applicants herein amend claim 1 to delete language relating to heteroaromatic moieties and acylsulphonamides, thus leaving carboxylic amides as the

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remaining genus for substituent R₄, and thereby conforming to the elections made on February 4, 2003. Applicants now submit that this objection is overcome.

Withdrawal of Rejections Under 35 USC §§112, 101, 102, and 103

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the withdrawal of rejections on claims 23 and 29 under §112; claim 23 under §101; and claims 1, 2, 5-14, 19-22, and 27-29 under §102(e) and 103(a) made in the Office Action of November 17, 2004.

Withdrawal of Double-Patenting and 35 U.S.C. §102(f) Rejections

As discussed in a phone conference on April 27, 2005, the Examiner and Applicants' representative agreed that the rejections under 35 USC §102(f) outlined in paragraph 6 of the outstanding office action, and the double patenting rejection outlined in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the outstanding office action, would be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 4 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above remarks and claim amendments, this objection is moot.

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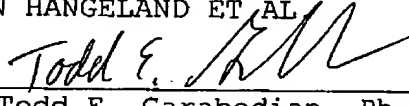
Applicants now submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a discussion with Applicants' representative would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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